



# The Florida Senate

## Local Funding Initiative Request

### Fiscal Year 2025-2026

LFIR # 1852

1. Project Title

2. Senate Sponsor

3. Date of Request

4. Project/Program Description

Modern Widows Club/ the Movement for Widow Care is dedicated to supporting women as they navigate the complex and emotional journey of loss of their husbands with compassion and understanding. We work to create a safe community where each individual feels heard, valued, and supported. We aim to empower our volunteers and support Florida's widows as they rebuild their lives, offering the curated empowerment tools and guidance needed to discover new purposes and find hope after loss. Through shared experiences and connection, we foster resilience and strength, helping individuals transition from grief to growth.

5. State Agency to receive requested funds

State Agency contacted?

6. Amount of the Nonrecurring Request for Fiscal Year 2025-2026

Type of Funding	Amount
Operating	588,250
Fixed Capital Outlay	0
<b>Total State Funds Requested</b>	<b>588,250</b>

7. Total Project Cost for Fiscal Year 2025-2026 (including matching funds available for this project)

Type of Funding	Amount	Percentage
Total State Funds Requested (from question #6)	588,250	100%
<b>Matching Funds</b>		
Federal	0	0%
State (excluding the amount of this request)	0	0%
Local	0	0%
Other	0	0%
<b>Total Project Costs for Fiscal Year 2025-2026</b>	<b>588,250</b>	<b>100%</b>

8. Has this project previously received state funding?

If yes, provide the most recent instance:

Fiscal Year (yyyy-yy)	Amount		Specific Appropriation #	Vetoed
	Recurring	Nonrecurring		

9. Is future-year funding likely to be requested?

a. If yes, indicate nonrecurring amount per year.

b. Describe the source of funding that can be used in lieu of state funding.

Private funding from widow advocates.



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### Complete questions 10 and 11 for Fixed Capital Outlay Projects

**10. Status of Construction**

a. What is the current phase of the project?

- Planning    
  Design    
  Construction    
  N/A

b. Is the project "shovel ready" (i.e permitted)?

c. What is the estimated start date of construction?

d. What is the estimated completion date of construction?

e. What funding stream will be used for ongoing operations and maintenance of the project?

**11. List the owners of the facility to receive, directly or indirectly, any fixed capital outlay funding. Include the relationship between the owners of the facility and the entity.**

**12. Details on how the requested state funds will be expended**

Spending Category	Description	Amount
<b>Administrative Costs:</b>		
Executive Director/Project Head Salary and Benefits	The State Administrator will be responsible for executing the strategic plan, overseeing volunteer recruitment, and ensuring comprehensive training for community advocates. This role includes developing and implementing outreach strategies, supporting internal and external communications, facilitating training sessions, and providing ongoing mentorship to volunteers and advocates. Additionally, the State Administrator will coordinate the statewide initiative, monitor program effectiveness, and c	75,000
Other Salary and Benefits		0
Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Widow Life publications will be made available to 5,000 widow families across the state at a discounted annual subscription rate of \$40. Additionally, e-course support packages will be offered to 1,000 widow families at a reduced price of \$149 per bundle. The program will also provide Inspire, Connect, and LEAD training for 400 volunteer leaders at a discounted rate of \$69 per participant. A travel stipend will cover approximately 45,000 miles, ensuring accessibility and support for widows and v	417,250
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study	In partnership with higher education institutions across the State of Florida, we will monitor our progress, assess our reach and impact, and evaluate the effectiveness of our expanded initiatives.	50,000
<b>Operational Costs</b>		
Salary and Benefits	The Executive Director will provide oversight and institutional logistical support for the entire program across the state. This includes managing statewide operations, ensuring seamless coordination between regional initiatives, overseeing resource allocation, and maintaining compliance with institutional policies. Additionally, the Executive will facilitate partnerships with key stakeholders, streamline communication between participating organizations, and support data-driven decision-making	40,000



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Expense/Equipment/Travel/Supplies/Other	Volunteers, program outreach travel to trainings and activities.	6,000
Consultants/Contracted Services/Study		0
<b>Fixed Capital Construction/Major Renovation:</b>		
Construction/Renovation/Land/Planning Engineering		0
<b>Total State Funds Requested (must equal total from question #6)</b>		<b>588,250</b>

### 13. Program Performance

#### a. What specific purpose or goal will be achieved by the funds requested?

This program is designed to positively impact the lives of approximately 15,000 families who have experienced the loss of a husband within their household. By providing comprehensive support services, the initiative aims to preserve family unity, foster the educational success of children growing up without a father, and empower widowed women to reintegrate into the workforce. Additionally, the program seeks to reduce the risk of substance abuse and crime among vulnerable youth, enhance the overall quality of life within neighborhoods, and create a strong support network for grieving families. Through these efforts, the program will help those affected by loss build resilience, navigate their recovery journey, and establish a stable and thriving future.

#### b. What activities and services will be provided to meet the intended purpose of these funds?

With these funds, MWC will be well-positioned to establish 12 community groups across the state, along with three additional rural or virtual groups, expanding our network of support to reach an estimated 15,000 widow-led families. Through our \*Widow Life\* publication, these widows will gain increased connectivity and access to our full range of support services. This engagement will help us identify 4,000 widow-led families who are ready to participate in our e-course support program, guiding them through the journey from grief to growth. From this group of 4,000 participants, we aim to identify 400 widows who will receive direct mentorship and empowerment through our leadership course and network. This initiative will equip them with the skills and confidence to transition from healing and hope to personal growth and leadership within their communities.

#### c. What direct services will be provided to citizens by the appropriation project?

4,000 widows will receive our monthly \*Widow Life\* publication along with weekly engagement messaging, designed to activate and support those affected by the profound loss of a loved one. These touchpoints serve as a vital first step in helping widows begin their journey of healing, recovery, and reconnection. Through this ongoing engagement, we will guide widow-led families to participate in our Widow Empowerment Quiz—an essential tool that allows us to assess their needs, strengths, and readiness for deeper support. Once these widows are actively engaged, we will be positioned to identify and recruit 400 widows who will access our specialized e-course program. This program is designed to equip participants with the knowledge, tools, and strategies needed not only to navigate their grief but also to rebuild their lives with confidence and purpose. Beyond coping with the loss of their spouse, the widows will gain essential life skills, financial literacy, and leadership development.

#### d. Who is the target population served by this project? How many individuals are expected to be served?

We anticipate reaching at least 15,000 widow-led families through our outreach and support networks, our primary goal is to directly serve 4,000 widows who are in critical need of resources. These women, who are on average 59 years old, face unique challenges in their widowhood. Over 70% serve as heads of household, navigating not only their personal grief but also the financial, emotional, and logistical burdens of sustaining their families. Through our targeted programs—ranging from grief support and financial literacy to leadership development and community engagement—we aim to provide them with the tools, connections, and empowerment needed to rebuild their lives with confidence and resilience. Our mission is to ensure that each of these 4,000 widows.

#### e. What is the expected benefit or outcome of this project? What is the methodology by which this outcome will be measured?



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While the program is designed to create long-term positive outcomes, its immediate impact focuses on maintaining family unity, ensuring financial stability, and preventing social and economic decline. Families affected by the loss of a husband often face significant hardships, including financial insecurity, emotional distress, and increased vulnerability to social instability. Without proper support, many of these families experience economic turmoil and a breakdown in structure, which can lead to negative consequences for both widows and their children. Through our intervention, we know that 90% of our participants will regain a sense of belonging and successfully readjust to life after the loss of their spouse. This renewed stability is crucial not only for widows but also for their children, who are at a significantly higher risk of adverse outcomes. Research shows that children who grow up without a father figure are three times more likely to drop out of school and more.

**f. What are the suggested penalties that the contracting agency may consider in addition to its standard penalties for failing to meet deliverables or performance measures provided for in the contract?**

MWC is not seeking to be penalized for challenges but rather to be supported in our mission to create meaningful, lasting change. While we are highly confident in the success of this investment, we recognize that adaptability is key to addressing the evolving needs of widows and their families. Should we encounter unforeseen challenges, we are prepared to recalibrate our strategies, refine our approach, and collaborate with additional partners to maximize our impact. Widowhood is a deeply personal and complex experience that affects not only individuals but also the broader fabric of society. As we continue to learn more about the human dynamics and social interactions surrounding widowhood, we will remain committed to adjusting our programs to better serve those in need. By fostering ongoing research, gathering insights from our participants, and integrating best practices, we will ensure that our efforts contribute to the mental, emotional, and financial well-being of widows.

**14. Is this project related to mitigation, response, or recovery from a natural disaster?**

**a. If Yes, what phase best describes the project?**

- Mitigation (reducing or eliminating potential loss of life or property)
- Response (addressing the immediate and short-term effects of a natural disaster)
- Recovery (assisting communities return to normal operations, including rebuilding damaged infrastructure)

**b. Name of the natural disaster (or Executive Order # for events not under a federal declaration):**

**15. Has the entity applied for or received federal assistance for this project?**

- Yes, Applied
- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

**a. If yes, provide the FEMA project worksheet ID#:**

**b. Provide the total project cost listed on the FEMA project worksheet:**

**16. Has the entity applied for or received state assistance for this project (other than this request)?**

- Yes, Applied



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- Yes, Received
- No
- No, but intends to apply

**a. If yes, specify the program and state agency (ex. Local Government Emergency Bridge Loan, Department of Commerce):**

#### 17. Requester Contact Information

- a. First Name**  **Last Name**
- b. Organization**
- c. E-mail Address**
- d. Phone Number**  **Ext.**

#### 18. Recipient Contact Information

- a. Organization**
- b. Municipality and County**
- c. Organization Type**
  - For Profit Entity
  - Non Profit 501(c)(3)
  - Non Profit 501(c)(4)
  - Local Entity
  - University or College
  - Other (please specify)

- d. First Name**  **Last Name**
- e. E-mail Address**
- f. Phone Number**  **Ext.**

#### 19. Lobbyist Contact Information

- a. Name**
- b. Firm Name**
- c. E-mail Address**
- d. Phone Number**



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*The information provided will be posted to the Florida Senate website for public viewing if sponsored by a Senator.*